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DHAKA FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAFFER ONLY

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State Dept. review completed

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OVIP (PERCY, SENATOR), PREL, IN
SUBJECT: PERCY VISIT: INDIA

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I HAVE A COMMENT ON SENATOR PERCY'S PROGRAM IN
BOMBAY WHICH IS OF SUCH A NATURE THAT I AM RESTRICTING
DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MESSAGE.

3. BOMBAY. THE HINDUJA BROTHERS ARE INDEED WELL
KNOWN. ON THE ONE HAND THEY ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL
BUSINESSMEN, BOTH IN INDIA AND IN THE U.K. AND HAVE
MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUCH WORTHY CAUSES
AS HOSPITALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY HAVE SOUGHT
TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS HAVING MORE ACCESS TO THE
POWERS THAT BE IN DELHI THAN WE BELIEVE THEY
ACTUALLY DO. AMBASSADOR SCHAFFER, FROM HIS WASHINGTON
EXPERIENCE, MAY WANT TO COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION. IN
ANY CASE, I DO KNOW THAT WE WERE SPECIFICALLY WARNED
BY A VERY SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIAL LAST SPRING NOT TO
BELIEVE WHAT THE HINDUJAS SAID ABOUT THEIR INFLUENCE.
CONSEQUENTLY, ALTHOUGH I HAD SEEN ONE OR ANOTHER OF
THEM FROM TIME TO TIME, I DECIDED NOT TO MEET THEM ANY
LONGER -- A MESSAGE I ALSO CONVEYED IN WASHINGTON.

4. SINCE THE SENATOR ALREADY APPEARS COMMITTED TO A
HINDUJA-SPONSORED RECEPTION, MY SUGGESTION WOULD
BE THAT THE CONSULATE ALSO ARRANGE A DISCUSSION
WITH THE INDO-AMERICA CHAMBER (IACC) IN ADDITION TO
THAT WITH THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY OR PERHAPS USE
THE LUNCHEON FOR THE IACC AND THE U.S. GROUP SINCE SOME
OF THE U.S. BUSINESS PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE IN THE IACC.

5. DELHI PROGRAM WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE
MESSAGE.
BARNES
END OF MESSAGE   CONFIDENTIAL

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